

**September 13, 2013**

**Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.**

**Battle Creek Enquirer: Reaction to courtroom interpreter ruling is muted**

"The Michigan Supreme Court moved this week to require all courts in the state to provide interpreters for limited-English-speaking people. The ruling requires interpretation services in the court. The ruling says those under 125 percent of the federal poverty level will not have to pay for the service. No one will be forced to pay upfront, but anyone who can afford an interpreter will have to reimburse the court, Justice Bridget McCormack said. Interpreters will be provided for criminal and civil cases."

[Full story](#)

***Also see:***

**Detroit Legal News: Michigan high court adopts rule over access to foreign language interpreters**

[Full story](#)

**Note:** The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

**Michigan Supreme Court kicks off new session by directing consistent, meaningful access to foreign language interpreters; Justices Young and McCormack announce new rule**

[Press release](#)

**MLive.com: Tim Skubick: Michigan Supreme Court gets warm and fuzzy**

"... It's apparently a new day on the new court and as the Chief Justice says, 'It's Bridget's fault.' Bridget is Justice Bridget McCormack, the newest member on the bench and she campaigned on changing the culture of the court and apparently it's working."

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: Parental rights denied to Traverse City man after mom remarried**

"The state appeals court has turned down a northern Michigan man's request to get parental rights to a 2-year-old son born to his former fiancée. It's another case where a man has no automatic rights in Michigan if a child is born to a woman while she's married to another man."

[Full story](#)

***Also see:***

**Associated Press: No parental rights for man after mom married**

[Full story](#)

**The Detroit News: State bar requests disclosure of 'issue' spending donors in judicial races**

"The State Bar of Michigan is requesting Secretary of State Ruth Johnson issue a declaratory ruling that donors funding all 'issue' spending on judicial races must be publicly disclosed. State Bar President Bruce Courtade said Thursday that, under Michigan's campaign finance act, Johnson has 60 days to respond to the request. The State Bar wants to have the requirement in effect for 2014 judicial races, he said."

[Full story](#)

***Also see:***

**Detroit Free Press: State bar wants to prohibit secret judicial ads**

[Full story](#)

**Associated Press: State bar wants to prohibit secret judicial ads**

[Full story](#)

**Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Lansing State Journal and other media outlets.**

**Detroit Legal News: State Bar calls for halt to secret funding of judicial campaign ads**

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Macomb County Legal News.**

**Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Stateside: State Bar calling for an end to secretly-funded judicial campaign ads**

[Full story](#)

**Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: State Bar asks for reversal of disclosure rule**

[Full story](#)

**WKAR News/East Lansing: State Bar Asks For Reversal Of Disclosure Rule**

[Full story](#)

**The Detroit News: Officials: Power restored following Detroit outage**

"Officials say a power outage in Detroit linked to the city's aging electrical infrastructure and a recent unseasonable heat wave has been fixed.... City Hall and the Detroit Institute of Arts offices were closed Thursday. But 36th District Court had full power throughout the day and the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice was open for arraignments only."

[Full story](#)

**Detroit Free Press: No bond for Abraham Pearson, inmate who stabbed deputy, escaped**

"A judge today ordered the man accused of stabbing a Wayne County sheriff's deputy and carjacking a woman before leading police on a 14-hour manhunt held without bond in the Wayne County Jail. Appearing by video from a holding cell in the Wayne County Jail, Abraham Pearson, 25, said nothing over the TV monitor in 36th District Court Judge Deborah Geraldine Bledsoe Ford's courtroom before she remanded him to custody."

[Full story](#)

**Ann Arbor.com: Despite conflict of interest allegations, sex assault case against ex-Ann Arbor DDA member proceeds**

"The Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office will continue to prosecute defense attorney and former Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority member Nader Nassif, a judge ruled Thursday. Joe Simon, Nassif's attorney, filed a motion to disqualify the prosecutor's office because their attorneys received a massive amount of Nassif's text messages as a part of their investigation."

[Full story](#)

**Battle Creek Enquirer: KCC to observe Constitution Day Sept. 17**

"... The day's events will begin with a presentation of a movie about the Constitution, to be followed by a Constitution trivia game at 1 p.m. with prizes for the winners. [Judge Michael] Schipper, who was appointed judge of the 56B District Court in Barry County in 2011, is scheduled to speak at 2:30 p.m. about current legal topics including gun control and the legalization of marijuana, with a question and answer session to follow."

[Full story](#)

**Daily Press & Argus: Court Docket: Attorney seeks appeal in synthetic marijuana case**

"An attorney for two Livingston County women accused of selling synthetic marijuana has filed an application to appeal his dismissal from the case. Defense attorney Timothy Corr's office confirmed Thursday that he filed the application to appeal the case with the Michigan Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Judicial Gathering**

"Members of Michigan's 2013 Judicial Tenure Commission (JTC) recently gathered for a group photo. Currently serving on the commission are Michigan Court of Appeals Judge David H. Sawyer, JTC vice chair; Oakland County Circuit Court Chief Judge Nanci J. Grant, JTC chair; and Kent County 62A District Court Chief Judge Pablo Cortes, JTC secretary; Crawford County Probate Court Judge Monte Burmeister; ... and Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Michael M. Hathaway. The JTC serves to promote the integrity of the judicial process and preserve public confidence in the courts."

[Full story](#)

### **Grand Rapids Legal News: Oral arguments handbook offers tips for Michigan Supreme Court practice (second article)**

"Attorneys who appear before the Michigan Supreme Court have a valuable new resource: a comprehensive, online handbook about how to prepare for and argue their cases. Entitled 'Guide for Counsel in Cases to Be Argued in the Michigan Supreme Court,' the handbook was compiled by Supreme Court staff with extensive input from Michigan Solicitor General John Bursch."

[Full story](#)

### **Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Plan to expand mental health courts clears state House committee**

"A plan to expand mental health courts in Michigan seems to be gaining momentum in the state Legislature. A state House panel unanimously approved the bill Thursday.... Last month, the State Court Administrative Office released a three-year study of Michigan's mental health courts. It found participants are far less likely to re-offend than those in the traditional criminal justice system."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **WKAR News/East Lansing: Plan To Expand Mental Health Courts Clears State**

[Full story](#)

### **The MiLW Blog: Court of Appeals nixes retailers' bid for bad-debt sales tax refunds**

"Some of the state's larger retailers took it on the chin this morning from the Michigan Court of Appeals in a tax appeal. Art Van Furniture, Menard's and Sears had agreements with third-party credit card companies, under which the stores offered private label credit cards, PLCCs, to their customers."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Juvenile Drug Court celebrates 40th graduation**

"On Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m., the Oakland County Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court (JDC) will conduct its 40th graduation since its inception in June of 2001. The 127th through the 131st graduates will be honored with a ceremony and reception to be held in Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Mary Ellen Brennan's courtroom in the Oakland County Courthouse, 1200 North Telegraph Road in Pontiac."

[Full story](#)

### **Traverse City Record-Eagle: Editorial: State must resolve mandatory-life issue**

"More than a year after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down mandatory life-without-parole sentences for juveniles, Michigan lawmakers are still dithering, which means there is no progress on the fate of the 360 or so inmates who were under 18 when they committed crimes, mostly murder."

[Full story](#)

***Also see:***

**The Macomb Daily: Our View: Give juveniles served mandatory minimum sentences a second chance**

[Full story](#)